

HYDERABAD

Army, DRDO conducts field trials of MPATGM Weapon System **page 3**

STATE

'BJP manifesto lacks concrete promises' **page 5**

WORLD

Sarabjit Singh's killer shot dead by gunmen in Pakistan **page 9**

NATION | PAGE 07
Political heat rises in Andhra



WORLD | PAGE 09

Sydney stabbing
 Police say attacker suffered mental health issues



SPORT | PAGE 10

Salt shines in KKR's win



ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 12

'Fan girl foreva'

Kareena misses Diljit Dosanjh's concert in Mumbai



CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm	Rs. 126
Retail live	Rs. 148
With skin	Rs. 215
Skinless	Rs. 244
Egg Rates (12 eggs)	Rs. 54

Iran attacks Israel

Launches over 300 drones, missiles | Israel says 99% of them intercepted | US tells Israel not to counter attack

AP
TEL AVIV

Israel on Sunday hailed its air defences in the face of an unprecedented attack by Iran, saying the systems thwarted 99 per cent of the more than 300 drones and missiles launched toward its territory. Regional tensions were high amid fears of an Israeli counter-strike that could fuel further escalation. US President Joe Biden said he would convene a meeting on Sunday of the Group of Seven advanced democracies "to coordinate a united diplomatic response to Iran's brazen attack."

The US made it clear that it would not participate in any offensive action against Iran. "We don't seek a war with Iran. We're not looking for escalation here," White House national security spokesman John Kirby told NBC. Iran launched the attack in response to a strike widely blamed on Israel that hit an Iranian consular building in Syria earlier this month and killed two Iranian generals. Israel said Iran launched 170 drones, more than 30 cruise missiles and more than 120 ballistic missiles. By Sunday morn-

Soild defence system

AN INCOMING ATTACK BY MORE THAN 300 IRANIAN DRONES, BALLISTIC MISSILES WAS THE LATEST CHALLENGE TO ISRAEL'S AIR DEFENCE SYSTEM. ISRAEL'S DEFENCE SYSTEM WITH ASSISTANCE FROM THE US AND BRITAIN IS CREDITED WITH PREVENTING SERIOUS DAMAGE OR CASUALTIES

THE ARROW

- Designed to intercept long-range missiles
- Operates outside the atmosphere
- Being used in the current war to intercept missiles launched by Houthis



DAVID'S SLING

- It is meant to intercept medium-range missiles, such as those possessed by Hezbollah in Lebanon

IRON DOME

- This system specialises in shooting down short-range rockets
- It intercepted thousands of rockets since it was activated early last decade
- Israel says it has a success rate of over 90%

PATRIOT

- This American-made system is used to shoot down aircraft, including drones

IRON BEAM

- This new system intercepts incoming threats with laser technology
- Israel says this will be a game changer because it is much cheaper to operate than existing systems
- However, it is not yet operational

Iran said the attack was over, and Israel reopened its airspace. "We will build a regional coalition and collect the price from Iran, in the way and at the time that suits us," said a key member of Israel's War Cabinet, Benny Gantz. The two foes have for years been engaged in

a shadow war marked by attacks such as the Damascus strike. But Sunday's assault, which set off air-raid sirens across Israel, was the first time Iran has launched a direct military assault on Israel, despite decades of enmity dating back to 1979 Islamic Revolution. (SEE PAGES 2, 9)

IRAN WARNS AGAINST FUTURE ATTACKS

TEHRAN: Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces said that the military operation against Israel "concluded" from Tehran's side, while issuing a warning that if the US helps Israel in their possible next actions, their bases will "not have any security." "Israel's actions in the consulate were condemned so a response should have been given," he said. ANI

EXERCISE RESTRAINT, SAYS INDIA

NEW DELHI: India expressed serious concern over the escalating tensions between Israel and Iran, and called for exercising restraint. In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs said, "We are seriously concerned at the escalation of hostilities between Israel and Iran which threatens the peace and security in the region." ANI

AIR INDIA SUSPENDS FLIGHTS TO TEL AVIV

NEW DELHI: Air India decided to temporarily suspend flights to Tel Aviv. An official said the direct flights between Delhi and Tel Aviv will be suspended for now. Air India operates four weekly flights between the national capital and Israeli city. The Tata group-owned carrier recommenced services to Tel Aviv on March 3 after a gap of five months. PTI

LS poll campaign peaks in State

PS DILEEP
Hyderabad

With less than a month left for polling on May 13, the Lok Sabha election campaign is gathering steam in Telangana as all three major parties — Congress, BRS and BJP — have intensified their campaigns. While all the leaders in the State have already hit the campaign trail, several national leaders and from neighbouring States are set to descend on Telangana for the campaign over the next four weeks.

The BRS has been way ahead of its political rivals when it comes to announcing its candidates for the Lok Sabha polls and launching the electioneering. Despite suffering minor setbacks in the form of defections, the party picked up pace and appears to be the front-runner in several parliamentary constituencies. Having conducted par-

BRS way ahead of its political rivals when it comes to announcing candidates and launching electioneering

liamentary constituency-wise preparatory meetings with the party cadre soon after the Assembly elections, the party candidates already completed the first round of interaction with their constituents and have only intensified it further as the polling date inches closer.

BRS president K Chandrashekar Rao is leading the attack from the front against both the Congress and the BJP. He already addressed two public meetings at Karimnagar and Chevella, to be followed by the third one at Sultanpur on April 16. (SEE PAGE 2)

Shots fired outside Salman's house

MUMBAI

The Mumbai Police have registered an FIR after two motorbike-borne unidentified persons opened fire outside Bollywood superstar Salman Khan's house in the city's Bandra area early Sunday morning.

The police also recovered a two-wheeler, a little over a kilometre from the actor's home, suspected to have been used by the duo, he said. According to the Bandra police official, a first information report (FIR) has been registered against 'unidentified persons' under



section 307 (attempt to murder) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Arms Act. Two persons fired four rounds outside Bandra's Galaxy Apartments, where the actor resides, around 5 am and fled from the spot, the police official said. PTI

Simultaneous polls, UCC on BJP manifesto

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a pitch for electing a strong and stable government in an uncertain world beset by geopolitical tensions as the BJP on Sunday released its manifesto, prioritising development and welfare while shunning populist measures and contentious issues like the NRC.

Named 'Modi ki Guarantee', the manifesto largely builds on the government's existing welfare schemes targeted at different sections of society, while reiterating the BJP's commitment to roll out one-nation-one-election and Uniform Civil Code, two issues mentioned in its 2019 manifesto too. The government has taken some concrete steps for their implementation.

The BJP promised to include all senior citizens above the age of 70 years in the 'Ayushman Bharat' scheme, which provides health insurance of up to Rs 5 lakh. It also spoke of considering bullet trains in north, south and east India and expanding "new age" trains such as Vande Bharat, Amrit Bharat and Namoo Bharat. Promising to strengthen the sports ecosystem, the BJP manifesto — Sankalp Patra — said its government will facilitate the Indian Olympic Association to bid for hosting the Olympic Games in 2036. (REPORT PAGE 7)

'Some parties endangering Constitution'



BRS working president KT Rama Rao and others pay tributes to Dr BR Ambedkar at Telangana Bhavan in Hyderabad on Sunday.

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

BRS working president KT Rama Rao called upon the people of Telangana to recognise the conspiracies of certain political parties and to thwart their attempts to endanger the Constitution of India authored by Dr BR Ambedkar.

He emphasised the need to safeguard the constitutional spirit to achieve equality in society.

"On one hand, conspiracies are being carried out to attack the constitutional systems and weaken them, while on the other hand, attempts are being made to undermine democracy and control the constitutional institutions. In such troubled times, citizens of this

nation should take up the responsibility to safeguard the Constitution which will be a true tribute to Dr Ambedkar," he said after paying tributes to Ambedkar on the occasion of the latter's birth anniversary at Telangana Bhavan on Sunday.

Speaking on the occasion, Rama Rao said the party, under the leadership of K Chandrashekar Rao, continued the Telangana struggle for 14 years, mobilising lakhs of people with the spirit of Babasaheb Ambedkar — educate, organise and agitate. "We achieved Telangana only through people's struggle. Our government functioned for ten years as per the teachings of Ambedkar and his ambitions," he said. (SEE PAGE 2)

Sea of Devout



AUSPICIOUS DAY: Devotees perform rituals on the banks of Ganga on the occasion of Chaiti Chhath festival, in Patna on Sunday. — Photo: PTI

Soon, explore entire zoo sans guide with new app!

YUVRAJ AKULA
Hyderabad

Visitors to Nehru Zoological Park here will soon have a new way to explore the animal kingdom. To enhance the experience of its visitors, the city zoo has embraced the digital age to shortly launch a mobile app, which will be on the lines of the Disneyland application.

Inspired by Disneyland's immersive application experience, the new app is aimed at captivating visitors with its technology, storytelling and interactive features. It will offer a seamless way

To enhance the experience of visitors, the zoo embraced the digital age to launch an app, which will be on the lines of the Disneyland application

to explore the entire zoo without missing out on any animal sans a guide. Currently, the zoo houses more than 2,400 inmates.

Unique features

The application introduces the visitors to the zoo, its history and unique features in three languages — Telugu, Hindi and English. Before stepping into the sprawling zoo campus, the visitors can receive insightful

information such as animals and their calls.

From locating their favourite animal to knowing complete details, users can enjoy the navigation features of the app that are linked to Google Maps for seamless navigation in the park. If visitors want to have a glimpse of tigers, the application will guide them to the tiger's enclosure in the shortest distance possible. (SEE PAGE 2)

Rs 1,000 cr worth gold seized in TN

CHENNAI: In a massive seizure ahead of the polls, the Flying Squad of the EC seized 1,425 kg of gold approximately valued at around Rs 1,000 crore from a truck in Tamil Nadu, an official said on Saturday. The huge quantity of precious metal was seized near Kundrathur after a truck and car were intercepted by EC Flying Squad officials.

While checking the truck, the gold was detected in boxes. Those moving in the car that was trailing the truck told officials that they had all the papers and the gold was being transported to a firm in Sriperumbudur. However, the EC Flying Squad officials were not satisfied with the documents that were produced and held back the truck as well as the car. IANS

UP man bites off shopkeeper's finger

BANDA: In a shocking incident, a man bit off the fingers of a shopkeeper after a dispute over Rs 50 in Uttar Pradesh's Banda district. The incident took place when a shopkeeper, Shiv Chandra Karwaria, who sells clothes at a garment shop, said a customer approached his shop to buy a frock. He purchased a frock and went away.

The next day, the man returned to the shop and told Karwaria that the frock he purchased was small and said he wanted a bigger size. The shopkeeper told him that he would have to pay another Rs 50 for a larger frock. An argument broke out between the two and the customer refused to pay Rs 50. The matter took an ugly turn when suddenly the man bit off the finger of Karwaria's left hand. IANS